

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019758 POSS DUPE
ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019758

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SG, US, EG, SO, ET, SS, OVIP

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH AF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

REF: A) STATE 4593; B) DAKAR 193; C) 77 STATE
269576; D) 77 DAKAR 8151

1. SUMMARY: SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR ANDRE COULBARY MET
JANUARY 13 WITH AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE. MOOSE
REVIEWED OUR VALUABLE EXCHANGES WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR
ON PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, REFERRED TO SENGHOR'S
RECENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER EXTENDING THIRD DAKAR
FAIR INVITATION, INFORMED COULBARY OF YALE UNIVERSITY
INTENT TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREE TO SENGHOR, ASSURED
AMBASSADOR OF OUR INTEREST IN POSSIBLE SENGHOR CALL ON
PRESIDENT CARTER DURING PRIVATE US VISIT, AND URGED EARLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 019758 POSS DUPE

EX GRATIA COMPENSATION PAYMENT IN AUTO ACCIDENT DEATH
CASE INVOLVING SENEGALESE EMBASSY CHAUFFEUR. COULBARY
WELCOMED US INTEREST IN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH SENGHOR,
URGED EARLY DECISION ON SENGHOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER, WELCOMED NEWS OF YALE HONORARY DEGREE BUT CITED
SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, AND PROMISED TO PURSUE BERGER
FAMILY EX GRATIA PAYMENT ON URGENT BASIS. END SUMMARY.

2.,SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR COULBARY MET JAN. 13 RPT 13 WITH AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE. AF/W COUNTRY OFFICER (KILLION) ATTENDED MEETING. MOOSE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH COULBARY SEVERAL ISSUES OF BILATERAL AND AFRICAN IMPORTANCE BEFORE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE NEXT DAY FOR LONDON TO DISCUSS RHODESIAN SITUATION. THE US PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON OUR EXCHANGES WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON THE HORN OF AFRICA AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

3. MOOSE TOLD COULBARY THAT YALE UNIVERSITY HAS DECIDED TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR. COULBARY WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR PLANS A STATE VISIT TO FRANCE IN LATE MAY WHICH COULD INTERFERE. FURTHERMORE, SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HAS ALSO OFFERED AN HONORARY DEGREE TO SENGHOR, AND WILL ADAPT ITS CEREMONY DATE TO ACCOMMODATE PRESIDENT SENGHOR. COULBARY CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR WILL ATTEND FRIENDS OF LEOPOLD SENGHOR FOUNDATION DINNER IN NEW YORK IN EARLY JUNE.

4. MOOSE NOTED OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER INVITE SENGHOR TO WASHINGTON IF THE PRESIDENT VISITS THE US. PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE IS VERY TIGHT, HOWEVER, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN WHITE HOUSE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 019758 POSS DUPE

COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR WORK TO EXPLORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE FOR POSSIBLE WASHINGTON VISIT. COULBARY INTERJECTED THAT HE RECEIVED SENGHOR LETTER PREVIOUS DAY ANNOUNCING DESIRE TO VISIT US DURING PERIOD JUNE 1 RPT 1 TO JUNE 7 RPT 7. "OFF THE RECORD" COULBARY SAID, THE LETTER ALSO STATED SENGHOR WOULD BE UNWILLING TO COME TO THE US WITHOUT OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM WASHINGTON. COULBARY FELT THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT ON ALL SIDES IF SENEAGLESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON COULD NOT EVEN ARRANGE A PRIVATE SENGHOR VISIT SUCH AS THAT IN 1975. MOOSE ASSURED COULBARY THAT, WHILE WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO COMMITMENT, WE DO BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL WANT TO SEE SENGHOR IF THE SENEAGLESE LEADER COMES TO THE US ON OTHER BUSINESS. MOOSE ALSO NOTED HIS OWN DEEPENING APPRECIATION OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND HIS BELIEF THAT SENGHOR IS AFRICAN STATESMAN OF HIGHEST CALIBER, WITH WHOM THE US SHOULD ASSOCIATE ITSELF EVEN MORE CLOSELY. COULBARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, AND HOPED WE COULD SOON PROVIDE DECISION ON POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

5. MOOSE TOLD COULBARY THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD RECENTLY WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER INVITING US PARTICIPATION IN 1978 THIRD DAKAR INTERNATIONAL FAIR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESPONSE WILL INDICATE OUR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE WITH AN EXHIBIT ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

6. MOOSE RAISED BERGER FAMILY EX GRATIA PAYMENT PROBLEM (REF D), POINTING OUT URGENT NEED TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. COULBARY FELT PARTIES ARE "EDGING TOWARD" SOLUTION, BUT AT MOMENT BERGER FAMILY DEMANDS ARE EXHORBITANT. COULBARY'S LAWYER, AND HE CLAIMED, LAWYER FOR BERGER FAMILY AS WELL, FELT IT BETTER TO WAIT FOR ENHANCED MOOD OF COMPROMISE TO DEVELOP ON PART

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PAGE 04 STATE 019758 POSS DUPE

OF BERGER FAMILY, RATHER THAN RISK REJECTION OF EVEN A SUBSTANTIAL GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL EX GRATIA PAYMENT OFFER. COULBARY PERSONALLY DISTRESSED BY THIS MATTER, AND FELT IT IMPERATIVE PROBLEM BE SOLVED BEFORE SENGHOR VISIT TO US. MOOSE THANKED COULBARY FOR HIS EFFORTS, NOTING HE WANTED TO AVOID UNPLEASANTNESS FOR COULBARY HIMSELF AND FOR THE WASHINGTON DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHICH SUCH DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY PROBLEMS COULD AROUSE.

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